

Country: TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

Project: MODERNIZATION OF THE TELECOMMUNICATIONS SECTOR

Sector: Telecommunications

DEVELOPMENT OF REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

ATN/MT 7537 TT

Expressions of Interest

The Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, through the Ministry of Public Administration and Information, is in the process of implementing a Technical Assistance Project to modernize the telecommunications sector in Trinidad and Tobago, utilizing grant resources from the Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF), which are administered by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB). An important aspect of this reform project is the creation of a comprehensive set of regulations for the newly created Telecommunications Authority to implement the provisions of the Telecommunications Act 2001. The Act sets out some detail with respect to the elements of the regulatory framework, and it is anticipated that certain elements of the regulations will be set out in the concessions (issued to authorize the operation of telecommunications networks and the provision of telecommunications services) and licenses (issued to authorize use of spectrum).

In this regard, expressions of interest are being sought from suitably qualified consulting firms to advise on the development and drafting of regulations. The consulting firms would work jointly with the Ministry of Public Administration and Information and the Trinidad and Tobago Telecommunications Authority in developing the following types of regulations:

- *Licensing, including the application procedures, the application forms for issuing concessions and licences, the forms of concessions and licences (including appropriate regulatory conditions) and the fees to be paid by concessionaires and licensees
- *Interconnection
- *Universal service obligations
- *Sharing of telecommunications network facilities
- *Restrictions on anti-competitive practices
- *Quality of service
- *Price regulation
- *Numbering allocation and assignment
- *Procedures for investigating and resolving complaints by users
- *Procedures for investigating breaches of a concession or licence, or violations of the Act or regulations
- *Dispute resolution mechanisms
- *Procedures for management of the spectrum
- *Procedures for developing and public consultation on regulations and policies

The consulting firms may be requested to advise on and draft additional regulations during the course of the project.

Consulting firms from MIF's member countries and IDB's regional member countries are invited to submit expressions of interest with a view to being shortlisted. IDB's applicable rules will apply in determining the eligibility of the consultant. The information provided shall be used to prepare a shortlist of potential candidates who will be subsequently invited to submit detailed proposals in response to detailed terms of reference.

Statements of interest will be evaluated using the following criteria:

*Specialist knowledge and extensive experience in the telecommunication sector, particularly in the field of telecommunications policy and the drafting of regulations

*Experience and extensive knowledge of international practices and policies in the telecommunications sector, including North America, Europe and internationally (e.g., the World Trade Organisation and the International Telecommunications Union)

*Prior experience working with multilateral financial institutions (e.g., World Bank and IDB); work in the liberalization of the telecommunications sector in the Caribbean highly desirable (similar work in countries elsewhere would be an asset)

*Language proficiency (competency in English)

*A minimum of ten years consultancy experience

Interested individuals and firms should submit three printed copies of their expressions of interest, clearly marked "Expression of Interest Consulting Services for the Development of a Regulatory Framework for the Telecommunications Sector", to the address below no later than 1600 hours on Friday, 8 August 2003.

An electronic copy of the expression of interest should also be submitted to Peter Mitchell, Head, Telecommunications Policy Unit, at the e-mail address below by the same deadline.

The Telecommunications Act No. 4 of 2001 may be viewed on the Parliament's website below.

Ministry of Public Administration and Information

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